

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.



# Annual Report

OF THE

## School Medical Officer

FOR

### 1941

---

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

---

St. Helens:

WOOD, WESTWORTH & Co., LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS,  
HARDSHAW STREET.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS



Annual Report  
OF THE  
School Medical Officer  
FOR  
1941

---

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health  
and School Medical Officer.

---

St. Helens:

WOOD, WESTWORTH & CO., LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS,  
HARDSHAW STREET.

# Central Children's Care Committee.

*Chairman :*

ALDERMAN J. C. SIMM, J.P.

*Deputy-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR ELLEN McCORMACK.

ALDERMAN W. BURROWS, J.P.

„ T. HAMBLETT, J.P.

„ J. HEWITT, J.P.

„ A. RUDD, J.P.

„ J. C. SIMM, J.P.

COUNCILLOR F. A. LITHERLAND, J.P.

„ ELLEN McCORMACK.

„ EVELYN PILKINGTON, C.B.E., J.P.

„ R. A. PILKINGTON, J.P.

„ R. RENNIE.

„ M. A. SHARD, J.P.

MRS. H. B. BATES.

MISS B. E. HARRISON, L.L.A.

MRS. A. E. LITHERLAND.

MRS. B. McGHIE.

MR. W. H. MILLS.

MRS. AUSTIN PILKINGTON, J.P.

MR. F. WATKIN.

---

## INDEX.

---

	PAGE
STAFF .....	4
MEDICAL INSPECTION .....	5
FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION .....	6
MEDICAL TREATMENT .....	8
DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT .....	11
FOLLOWING UP AND WORK OF SCHOOL NURSES .....	12
INFECTIOUS DISEASE .....	12
TUBERCULOSIS .....	13
EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN .....	13
NURSERY CLASSES .....	16
PROVISION OF MEALS .....	16
STATISTICAL TABLES .....	17
APPENDIX I .....	27
APPENDIX 2 .....	30



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
ST. HELENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

---

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report as School Medical Officer for the year 1941.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that with the ending of the second complete year of war the findings in relation to the physical well being of the school children reveal no cause for anxiety. The year brought increased work in the form of nutritional and verminous surveys of the school population, but as will be noted from the special reports dealing with these surveys (printed in the Appendix), the results showed no serious defects. One benefit resulting from these surveys has been the possibility for a more concentrated surveillance of schools or districts of the town where action appears to be most needed.

The general health of the children was good. The incidence of infection was very low, especially in the major epidemic diseases. The re-opening of the Open Air School at Easter was very welcome and the school has resumed its former invaluable place in the existing treatment services for delicate children.

In general, treatment facilities were maintained at pre-war standard, no curtailment being made in any of the services. One new problem, however, has arisen with the entry of so many mothers into industry. Despite the efforts of the health visitors on the districts, contact with the parents of a child who requires treatment is often difficult owing to "shift" periods. This frequently leads to delay in obtaining treatment, and whilst the conscientious parents, in most cases, find a way out of this difficulty and make an effort by some means to contact the school medical treatment centres, there still remains a residual hard core of careless parents and guardians who are only too willing to ascribe their negligence as being unavoidably due to the distracting demands of the national emergency. It is a problem which must be faced during war conditions and to which constant attention is being devoted by the Department.

For much of the work done I am indebted to Dr. O'Brien, Deputy School Medical Officer, and to him and to other members of the staff, and to teachers and officials of the Education Department, I would take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of their ever willing and helpful assistance.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

*July*, 1942.

STATISTICAL REVIEW OF WORK OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE  
DURING THE YEARS 1940 AND 1941.

	1940	1941
Children in Average Attendance at Elementary School .....	14,383	14,615
Total Examinations of Elementary School Children .....	17,781	21,154
Total Examinations of Secondary School Children .....	1,301	1,186
Miscellaneous Examinations (Bursars, etc.) .....	176	205
Minor Ailments treated .....	2,550	3,145
Visual Defects treated .....	509	489
Ear, Throat and Nose Defects treated .....	511	606
Children inspected by School Dentists .....	17,400	17,506
Children treated by School Dentists .....	4,832	5,064
Total Attendances at all School Clinics.....	43,626	48,359
Examinations by Nurses for Cleanliness .....	42,348	54,170
Visits to Schools by Medical Officers .....	381	466
Visits to Schools by Nurses .....	4,124	4,469
Home Visits by Nurses .....	7,220	6,169
Total Attendances at Inspection Clinic .....	3,220	3,966

### STAFF.

School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health :—

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Deputy School Medical Officer and Deputy Medical Officer of Health :—

Gerald O'Brien, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrew's).

Assistant School Medical Officers and Assistant Medical Officers of Health :—

Enid M. Hughes, M.B., Ch.B. (Liverp.).

Justin F. Martin, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (on Service with H.M. Forces).

Maureen J. Gould, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Belfast).

Edna Lindsay Birchwood, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Liverp.).  
(Temporary). (From May, 1941).

Edward J. O'Reilly, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (N.U.I.). (Temporary). (From November, 1941).

Dental Surgeons :—

Vincent Higham, L.D.S.

Arthur N. Leicester, B.D.S. (on Service with H.M. Forces).

Jean M. Simpkin, L.D.S.

Mary G. Cowper, L.D.S. (Temporary).



## Health Visitors and School Nurses :—

\*Superintendent : M. I. J. Abraham, (2), (3), (4), (6).

Ethel Denman	(1), (5), (6)	Louisa Peace	(3), (6)
Mary Riding	(3), (6)	Caroline Good	(3), (6)
Emily Corrish	(3), (6)	Florence Middlehurst	(2), (3), (6)
Nora Hogan	(3), (6)	Sophia M. McConnell	(3), (6)
Mary Corrish	(3), (4), (6)	Elsie Cornish	(2), (3), (6)
Alice Happold	(3), (5), (6)	Margaret A. Brown	(2), (3), (4), (6)
Edith Curran	(3), (6)	Hilda Yorke	(2), (3), (4), (6)

## Pupil Health Visitors :—

Agnes Forshaw	(3), (5), (6)	Alice Painter	(3), (6)
Kathleen Eustace	(3), (6)	Maggie Parkington	(3), (6)

## Orthopaedic Nurse :

E. M. Riordan (7)

## School Clinic and Dental Nurses and Attendants :—

Florence Faber	(3), (6)	K. G. Hanley	(3), (4)
Florence Wilkinson	(3)	Elizabeth Howarth	
Phyllis M. Mather	(3)	Edna Mather	
Mary E. Lenton	(3), (4), (6)		

(1) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

(2) New Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

(3) General Trained Nurse.

(4) Fever Trained Nurse.

(5) Children's Trained Nurse.

(6) State Certified Midwife.

(7) Certificate of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.

\* Resigned during the year.

## The following are part-time officers :—

E. Allan, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), Ophthalmic Surgeon.

J. E. G. McGibbon, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.L.O. (Eng.),  
(on service with H.M. Forces), Ear, Throat and Nose  
Surgeon).

W. E. Hunter, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),  
(Temporary).

T. P. McMurray, M.B., M.Ch., B.A.O., (R.U.I.), F.R.C.S.  
(Edin.), Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon.

B. L. McFarland, M.D. (Liverp.), M.Ch. (Orth.), M.B., Ch.B.,  
F.R.C.S. (Ed.), Orthopaedic Surgeon.

J. Unsworth, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), Physician to the X-Ray  
Department. (Died December, 1941).

Muriel W. Ferrie, M.S.S.T., Speech Therapist.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION.

### Elementary Schools.

During the year 1941 there were under the control of the Education Committee 40 Elementary Schools with 79 departments. Particulars as to accommodation and attendances are as follows :—

Number of children for whom accommodation available	...	...	25,116
Average number of children on the roll during the year	...	...	16,660
Average number of children in attendance during the year	...	...	14,615
Percentage attendance for the year	...	...	87.7%

During 1941 the scheme of school medical inspection followed normal pre-war lines and was further expanded to include a nutritional survey of all children in the schools. This was rendered possible by the appointment of an additional Assistant Medical Officer, the appointment, at the request of and duly approved by the Board of Education, being made in April, 1941.

In response to Board of Education Circular No. 2306 a special verminous survey was carried out in all the schools during the year. Details of this survey are given in the Appendix to this Report. Vigorous measures of inspection were also enforced in the detection of cases of scabies amongst school children. The number of these cases increased greatly during the year and a review of the findings and measures taken for dealing with the problem are noted under the section on "Findings of Medical Inspection."

The following statement shows the number of inspections carried out by Medical Officers during the past five years :

			1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Routine examinations	...	...	5738	5989	3222	5122	5874
Special examinations	...	...	6142	5856	5586	5175	5500
Re-examinations	...	...	10138	10724	6389	7484	9780
Attendances at							
Inspection Clinic	...	...	4523	4070	3901	3220	3966

The detailed figures of the number medically inspected during the year are given in Table I.

### Secondary Schools.

The only Secondary Schools in St. Helens to which the provisions of the School Medical Service are applicable are the Cowley Boys' Secondary School and the Cowley Middle School for Girls.

The following statement shows the work done in the medical inspection of these schools during the past 5 years :

			1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Routine examinations	...	...	983	996	1049	892	746
Special examinations	...	...	53	163	160	150	184
Re-examinations	...	...	120	274	365	259	256

The detailed figures of the number of children inspected are given in Table VIII.

## FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

### Elementary Schools.

Detailed figures regarding the nutritional condition of children inspected in routine age groups are given in Table II, and as a contrast the figures for the year 1940 are also shown.

In addition to the above a complete Nutritional Survey of all school children was carried out during the year, and the results of that Survey are given in the form of a special Report printed in the Appendix.



Details of the Local Authority's schemes for the provision of meals and milk are given in a later section of the report.

Of 5,874 children examined at the routine medical inspections during 1941, 543 (9.2%) were found to be suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness, defective clothing or footgear, and dental defects), which required treatment, and 1,517 (25.8%) from defects requiring to be kept under observation.

During the past five years the corresponding percentages have been :

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Referred for treatment	16.6%	9.1%	12.0%	14.5%	9.2%
Referred for observation	17.7%	26.6%	30.7%	26.6%	25.8%
Total	34.3%	35.7%	42.7%	41.1%	35.0%

The decrease in the number of children requiring treatment occurred mainly in the classes of defects, including enlarged cervical glands, associated with catarrhal nose and throat conditions, and also in the number of children referred for minor skin diseases.

The percentage of children found to be actually verminous or showing evidence of infestation to such an extent that official intimation was sent to the parents, was 3.13%. The corresponding figure for 1940 was 2.50%. In no instance was compulsory cleansing necessary.

During the year a special investigation was made into the incidence of infestation in both the school child and the pre-school child. A special report on that investigation is printed in the Appendix to this Report. From that report it will be seen that 15.8% of elementary school children in St. Helens showed evidence of verminous infestation and of these on 1.2% living lice were found. The difference between these figures and those given as the percentage found verminous at medical inspection is that in the latter have been included for many years only those cases where the infestation was considered to require an official notice. The presence of lesser degrees of infestation was dealt with by the nurse or teacher directly with the child or parent concerned.

The percentage of children found at routine inspections with defective clothing was 2.50% in 1941 as compared with 1.84% in 1940 ; whilst the percentage with defective footwear was 1.55% compared with 2.75% in the preceding year.

The number of cases of scabies discovered during medical inspection and at the Inspection Clinic was very large. The following figures, which give the number of cases discovered during the past five years, show the extent to which this disease has become increasingly prevalent.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
No. of cases of scabies	30	37	59	147	515

Energetic measures of inspection were enforced and facilities for treatment were extended by the establishment of a cleansing centre at the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital. All school cases were followed up and kept under the closest supervision until treatment was completed. The majority received treatment at the cleansing centre. By the end of the year success was being achieved by these methods.

*Re-examinations* : The following table gives the number of re-examinations carried out by medical officers during the year, and the results found at these re-examinations.

Number of children re-examined	...	...	...	...	5,723
Total re-examinations	...	...	...	...	9,780
Number found remedied	...	...	...	...	1,357 (13.87%)
Number found improved	...	...	...	...	6,189 (63.28%)
Number found stationary	...	...	...	...	2,162 (22.11%)
Number found retrograde	...	...	...	...	72 (0.74%)

### Secondary Schools.

At the Secondary Schools 746 children were examined at the routine inspections. Of these 47 (6.3 %) had defects (other than uncleanliness, defective clothing or footwear, or dental defects), requiring treatment, and 176 (23.59%) defects which required to be kept under observation. The corresponding percentages for 1940 were 5.72% and 35.65%.

In addition to the routine inspections 184 special cases were examined and 256 children previously found defective were re-examined.

---

## MEDICAL TREATMENT.

### Elementary Schools.

There was no curtailment of the range of treatment services during the year 1941, and despite changes in personnel, the Medical and Nursing staffs remained at pre-war strength.

Table IV gives in detail and Table VII in summary the treatment obtained for the various defects referred for treatment during 1941.

### Secondary Schools.

The detailed figures regarding the defects treated are given in Table XI, and a summary of the treatment obtained is shown in Table XIV.

Of the 96 children referred for treatment for medical defects during the year, 82 (85.42%) were treated before the end of the year, and of 635 children referred for dental treatment 498 (78.43%) were treated. The corresponding figures for 1940 were 89.15% and 70.84%.



## Provision of Treatment.

The total number of defects treated at the various clinics during the past five years is shown in the following statement.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Minor Ailments .....	3,646	3,282	2,919	2,550	3,145
Visual Defects .....	723	558	578	509	489
Defects of Throat and Nose .....	413	304	183	511	400
Dental Defects .....	7,758	6,436	6,147	4,975	5,064
Crippling Defects .....	536	601	504	430	462
Speech Defects .....	—	—	—	—	19
Other Defects .....	1,126	714	1,082	1,245	810
Total number of defects treated .....	14,202	11,895	11,413	10,220	10,449
Total attendances .....	62,124	61,066	53,439	43,626	49,362

Attendances at clinics for the purposes of treatment were affected in the early months of the year by the abnormal conditions of national life then obtaining. With the return to more settled conditions during the later months, the work of the clinics increased and over the whole year showed an increased volume of work as compared with 1940.

District clinics were naturally affected in the same way, but once again showed a total increase in the number of attendances and cases treated as compared with the previous year.

At district minor ailments clinics 1,360 children made 18,322 attendances during 1941, and at the district dental clinics 1,524 children made 1,946 attendances.

The following table shows the work carried out at or in connection with the Ophthalmic Clinic during the past five years.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Cases for refraction .....	723	558	578	509	489
Cases glassed .....	581	472	405	205	417
Cases not glassed .....	142	86	173	304	72
Old cases reviewed .....	901	723	602	499	701
Cases referred for observation .....	—	6	1	8	—
External eye diseases .....	29	17	3	13	13
Operations .....	40	11	10	5	11
Total attendances .....	1,549	1,304	1,190	1,249	1,156

The operations referred to above were straightening operations performed for squint by the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon in one of the local hospitals.

During 1941 the work done at the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic maintained a highly successful level and weekly sessions were conducted by the acting Consultant Surgeon. Intercurrent treatments were carried out daily by the Ear, Nose and Throat nurse.

In all 606 cases made 2,234 attendances for examination and treatment during the year.



The following operative treatments were carried out during the year at one of the local hospitals by the Consultant Aural Surgeon.

Removal of Tonsils and/or Adenoids	256
Antral lavage.....	29
Antrostomy .....	3
Submucous resection .....	1
Laryngoscopy .....	1
Cautery of septum .....	1
	<hr/>
	291
	<hr/>

The war-time expedient of regionalising the Speech Defect Clinic in three separate Centres was continued during the year. Weekly clinics were held in each Centre by the Speech Therapist, and I am indebted to Miss M. W. Ferrie for the following report on the work carried out :—

“ In comparison with 1940, freedom from air raid ‘alerts’ greatly facilitated the smooth working of the Speech Clinic during the year. Work is still hampered by the lack of space in district centres and this, too, affects the number of stammerers that it is possible to have in one group. A larger number of young children have been referred for treatment, all with serious disorders of speech. This is most desirable, as the earlier the problem is tackled the less established will be the bad speech habit and the less retarded educationally will be the child. It must be remembered that normal speech is essential to normal educational progress.

“ All the schools of the children attending the Speech Clinic, as well as most of the homes, were visited during the year. Some of the mothers are working and this naturally makes it more difficult to obtain their co-operation.

“ A summary of the cases dealt with during 1941 is given below.

	Stam-mer	Dyslalia	Cleft Palate	Dysph-onia	TOTAL
<b>Discharged</b> —Speech satisfactory .....	3	10	1	—	14
Much improved, further improve-ment unlikely .....	3	1	2	—	6
Left school improved .....	2	—	—	—	2
I.S.Q. ....	1	—	—	—	1
Not suitable .....	—	2	—	3	5
Did not attend .....	—	2	—	—	2
	9	15	3	3	30
<b>Still attending</b> —Improving .....	15	10	3	—	28
I.S.Q. ....	2	—	—	—	2
<b>Under supervision</b> .....	7	9	3	—	19
	24	19	6	—	49

Part of the cost of treatment provided at these various Clinics is recovered from the parents in accordance with the family circumstances. During the year ended 31st December, 1941, parents paid £223/6/0.

The question of special provision for the specially defective child is dealt with under the headings dealing with exceptional children.

---

## DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

I am indebted to Mr. V. Higham, Senior Dental Surgeon, for the following notes on the work of the School Dental Department.

“Attendances for dental treatment during 1941 have been adversely influenced by two factors: the Diphtheria Immunisation campaign and the increased employment of parents in war industries.

“Many parents seem to consider that during the periods of inoculation against diphtheria, the child is unfit for dental treatment. Though there is no foundation for such a belief, they refuse to sign the consent forms and prefer to postpone treatment until a later date.

“The majority of parents naturally like to accompany their children when they come for treatment, and when a general anaesthetic is administered their attendance (or that of an adult over 21 years of age) is compulsory. Owing to so many adults being engaged on war work, parents find it awkward, nowadays, to arrange for this, and consequently unless the child actually suffers from toothache, there is a tendency to undue postponement of treatment.

“During the year 16,882 elementary school children were inspected and 9,424 (55.7%) were referred for treatment. 4,827 (51%) received treatment during the year, and of these 4,141 completed their treatment. Orthodontic appliances were supplied in two cases.

“Treatment was resumed at the Open Air School. At the first inspection 104 children were examined and 39 were found to require treatment. All were treated. At the second inspection 100 children were examined and 37 were found with defective teeth. All these also were treated.

“Cowley Schools were examined twice during the year. 237 secondary school children were treated and 190 completed treatment. One regulation appliance was supplied.”

---



## FOLLOWING-UP AND WORK OF SCHOOL NURSES.

The following figures show the work carried out by the School Nurses during the year. The verminous survey entailed a great deal of extra work and resulted in a high figure for cleanliness examinations.

1. Number of visits to schools for general supervisory purposes and for medical and verminous inspections	4,469
2. Number of examinations of children for cleanliness	54,170
3. Number of visits paid to the homes of children in following up defects, investigating cases of infectious disease, investigating cases referred by the School Attendance Department, etc. ....	6,169

In addition to the work of the nurses referred to above, special nurses are employed, at the School Clinic and District Clinics, who are wholly engaged treating or assisting in the treatment of various defects.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of the principal infectious diseases occurring amongst school children is shown in the following table, which also gives the corresponding figures since 1937.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Scarlet Fever ... ..	488	396	639	123	103
Diphtheria ... ..	325	311	324	176	143
Measles ... ..	529	808	125	1460	216
German Measles ... ..	13	26	122	834	12
Whooping Cough ... ..	357	188	141	163	313
Chicken Pox ... ..	501	246	320	103	310
Mumps ... ..	99	377	17	11	792

The position regarding the incidence of infectious disease amongst school children was eminently satisfactory. The incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria was the lowest for many years and in the minor epidemic diseases only Mumps showed a marked increase.

A small explosive outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred in the infant department of one of the schools during the year. Immediate investigation revealed the presence of a carrier, in one of the classes, whose throat swabs were positive to haemolytic streptococci. The case history proved that this child was a "missed" case of the disease. Exclusion of the carrier and daily examination and observation of all contact children controlled the outbreak in a space of four weeks, during which 14 cases in all occurred.

During the year intensive propaganda devoted to Diphtheria immunisation was carried out in the schools and approximately 6,000 children were immunised at sessions held in the schools themselves. The work of teachers and heads of schools was an invaluable help in this campaign. Until the minimum number for safety—



three-quarters of our school population—is rendered immune, however, there is still much work to be done in this sphere.

During the year the percentage attendance fell below 60% in three departments, owing to epidemic sickness. This occurred in January, and February, when attendances were affected for a period of five weeks due to measles and chicken pox.

---

### TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1941 there were in St. Helens 105 children of school age suffering from tuberculosis in the following forms :—

Pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	16
Non-pulmonary—				
Bones and joints	.....	.....		17
Peripheral glands	.....	.....		52
Abdominal	.....	.....		18
Skin and others	.....	.....		2
				<hr/>
				105
				<hr/>

Most of these cases were quiescent and only 16 non-pulmonary cases (i.e. 15.2%) and 2 pulmonary cases (1.9%) were found to require active treatment.

Out-patient treatment for children suffering from tuberculous disease of bones or joints is provided at the Council's Orthopaedic Clinic, where 15 children made 59 attendances to see the Orthopaedic Surgeon, and 88 attendances for supervision and treatment by the Orthopaedic Nurse. The latter also paid 237 supervisory home visits during the year. In addition, 17 children suffering from lupus or tuberculous adenitis made 213 attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensary for X-ray therapy. Two children with lupus of the face attended the Belmont Road Hospital, Liverpool, by arrangement with the Liverpool Public Health Department, for intensive ultra violet light treatment.

During 1941, 10 children spent an aggregate of 1,995 days in Eccleston Hall Sanatorium. These children received tuition at the special school attached to the Sanatorium, the average daily attendance being 8 and the average number of days each child attended 126. In addition, 4 children spent an aggregate of 1,309 days in the Leasowe Open Air Hospital for Children.

---

### EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

#### Crippled Children.

At the end of 1941 there were in St. Helens 27 children of school age in whom the crippling was sufficiently severe to interfere with a normal mode of life.

The following Table shows the number of severely crippled children in St. Helens at the end of each year since 1937 and the causes of the crippling.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Tuberculosis .....	7	11	3	4	5
Infantile Paralysis .....	17	15	17	13	8
Other forms of Paralysis .....	11	10	6	6	6
Congenital Deformities .....	4	11	8	7	4
Rickets .....	2	2	2	2	2
Arthritis .....	2	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous .....	5	5	6	4	2
	48	54	42	36	27

Of the 27 children known at the end of 1941, 18 were attending Public Elementary Schools, 1 was at a Special School, 5 were in Institutions and 3 were at no school or institution.

There are, however, many other children with lesser degrees of crippling, so that excluding tuberculous cases which are dealt with under Tuberculosis, the number on the register of the Orthopaedic Clinic was much higher, there being 462 cases suffering from the following defects on that register during the year :

Infantile paralysis .....	44
Other forms of paralysis .....	35
Congenital deformities .....	35
Rickets .....	42
Traumatism .....	12
Acquired foot deformities .....	126
Postural defects .....	126
Other acquired deformities .....	25
Arthritis .....	1
Miscellaneous .....	16
	<hr/> 462 <hr/>

The treatment provided for crippled children involved 686 attendances for consultation or treatment by the Orthopaedic Surgeon, 4,776 attendances for intermediate treatment by the nurse and 131 home visits by the nurse for purposes of supervision. In addition, 13 cases received surgical or other hospital treatment for an aggregate of 813 days.

In addition to the crippled children there are in St. Helens 13 children with heart disease of such severity that they are physically crippled. 3 of these attend public elementary schools, 1 is at a secondary school and 1 is at the Hamblett Open Air School. Of the remainder 4 are at certified special schools and 4 are at no school.



## Delicate Children.

The Hamblett Open Air School was re-opened with its full complement of 120 children on the 1st April, 1941. The School had been closed since the outbreak of the war but, as noted in the School Medical Report for 1940, its treatment facilities were sorely missed. Amongst those admitted on the re-opening were 89 of those children in attendance when the school closed in 1939. During the year 36 children were discharged. The condition of the children discharged was as follows :—

Considered to be fit to return to Elementary	
Schools .....	19
Left to take up employment .....	5
Discharged at parents' request (condition	
unimproved) .....	2
Discharged as unsuitable for further attendance .....	1
Discharged as unsatisfactory .....	5
Discharged (refusal of treatment) .....	2
Discharged to a convalescent home .....	1
Left district .....	1

The percentage attendance at the School during the year was 86.9%.

The average gain in weight is given in the table below :—

		7-9 yrs.	10-12 yrs.	13 yrs.
Girls	.....	2.99 ozs.	3.01 ozs.	3.7 ozs.
Boys	.....	3.21 ozs.	2.93 ozs.	3.1 ozs.

## Blind, Deaf and Epileptic Children.

The total number of these children is given in Table III. During the year 2 epileptic children were sent to a special residential school, and the Local Authority is at present maintaining 2 epileptic, 6 blind, and 8 deaf and dumb children in special schools.

## Mentally Defective Children.

There are at present 22 feeble-minded but educable children of school age in St. Helens, but only 10 of these are at special schools. Of the remainder, 7 attend ordinary classes in the public elementary schools and 5 are at no school or institution.

During the year 3 ineducable mentally defective boys, and 2 imbeciles (1 boy and 1 girl) were notified to the Local Control Authority.

Unfortunately during the year St. Helens lost the benefit of the arrangements in existence, with the Liverpool and District Child Guidance Council and Clinic, for dealing with the "difficult" child, as that Clinic had to suspend its activities. That there is



urgent need for dealing with these children is undoubted, and I would suggest that St. Helens should consider as a matter of urgency the possibility of combining with a neighbouring authority for the establishment of a Child Guidance Clinic.

### **After Care and Vocational Training.**

During 1941, 1 deaf boy returned home on completing his education in a special school. He is now under the supervision of the St. Helens Deaf and Dumb Society. One deaf girl is undergoing vocational training in dressmaking at the Liverpool School for the Deaf, and a blind youth is undergoing vocational training in basketry at the St. Helens Workshops for the Blind.

---

### **NURSERY CLASSES.**

By the end of 1941, five of the Nursery Classes which existed pre-war in the 21 infants' departments of the elementary schools of the town were re-opened. As more shelter provision became available, however, admission to infants' departments of all elementary schools was open to children of 4 years and upwards during the year. The demand for the facilities provided by the Nursery Class is bound to become more urgent because of the increased employment of mothers in industry. It must be remarked, however, that the substitute facilities, from the point of view of medical inspection and supervision, offered in the Toddlers' Clinics, have not been adequately utilised by mothers during the past two years.

---

### **PROVISION OF MEALS.**

During the year there was a general increase in the work done under the Local Authority's scheme for the provision of meals and milk. The total number of meals served was 440,152, of which 327,139 were provided free. The total number of individual children receiving meals was 2,017, which was an increase of 744 on the figure for 1940.

In February, 1941, a revision of the Authority's financial scale for milk and meals was carried out. The revised scale was more lenient than the former one, and by its application more children became eligible, than formerly, for the issue of free milk or meals.

The total number of individual children receiving fresh bottled milk was 12,375, and of this number 2,183 were provided free.

# STATISTICAL TABLES.

FOR THE YEAR 1941

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—Tables I to VII.

TABLE I.

### RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

#### A—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :

Entrants .....	2535
Second Age Group .....	1652
Third Age Group .....	1671

Number of other Routine Inspections

(Children under 5 years, other than entrants) .....

16

Total .....

5874

#### B—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections .....

5500

Number of Re-Inspections .....

9780

Total .....

15280

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age-Groups	Number of Children inspected	A (excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Sub-Normal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1940									
Entrants (1939-1940)	1687	234	13.87	1290	76.47	154	9.13	9	0.53
Second Age Group .....	1683	181	10.76	1324	78.67	166	9.86	12	0.71
Third Age Group .....	1635	123	7.52	1400	85.63	108	6.61	4	0.24
Other Routine Inspections .....	117	7	5.98	102	87.18	8	6.84	—	—
TOTAL .....	5122	545	10.64	4116	80.36	436	8.51	25	0.49
1941									
Entrants .....	2535	106	4.18	2306	90.97	121	4.77	2	0.08
Second Age Group .....	1652	87	5.27	1406	85.11	152	9.20	7	0.42
Third Age Group .....	1671	156	9.33	1432	85.70	82	4.91	1	0.62
Other Routine Inspections .....	16	—	—	13	81.25	3	18.75	—	—
TOTAL .....	5874	349	5.94	5157	87.79	358	6.10	10	0.17

**TABLE III.**

Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area on the 31st December, 1941.

**BLIND CHILDREN.**

(Children who are so blind that they can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children)

At Certified Schools for the Blind	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
6	—	—	1	7

**PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.**

(Children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them (even with suitable glasses) without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially blind).

At Certified Schools for the Blind	At Certified Schools for the Partially Blind	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	—	5	—	1	6

**DEAF CHILDREN.**

(Children who are too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school, and are so deaf that they can only be appropriately taught in a school for the deaf).

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
8	2	—	—	10

**PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.**

(Children who can be appropriately taught in a school for the partially deaf).

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	At Certified Schools for the partially deaf	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	—	1	—	—	1

**MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.**

(Children (excluding children notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act) who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in Special Schools for mentally defective children).

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
10	7	—	5	22



**EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.**

(Children suffering from Severe Epilepsy, who, not being idiots or imbeciles are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary Public Elementary Schools).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
2	2	—	1	5

**PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.****A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.**

(Children diagnosed as tuberculous **and requiring treatment for tuberculosis** at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere).

**I.—Children Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**  
(including pleura and intra-thoracic glands)

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	—	1	—	1

**II.—Children Suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
3	2	*4	1	10

\* At Eccleston Hall Sanatorium School.

**B.—DELICATE CHILDREN.**

(Children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
120	100	2	—	222

**C.—CRIPPLED CHILDREN.**

(Children (other than those diagnosed as tuberculous and in need of treatment for that disease) suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
1	18	5	3	27

D.—CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE.

(Children whose defect is so severe as to necessitate the provision of educational facilities other than those of the Public Elementary School).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
4	3	1	4	12

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.

(Children suffering from any combination of the following types of defect:—Blindness (not Partial Blindness), Deafness (not Partial Deafness), Mental Defect, Epilepsy, Active Tuberculosis, Crippling (as defined in Section C. of this Table), Heart Disease).

Combination of Defect	At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At Other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
Blind and Deaf	1	—	—	—	1
Blind, Crippled and Feeble-minded	—	—	—	3	3
Feeble-minded and Epilepsy.....	1	1	—	1	3
Feeble-minded and Crippled .....	1	—	—	—	1
Blind and Epilepsy .....	—	—	—	1	1
T.B. and Heart .....	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	1	—	5	9

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table VI).

DISEASE OR DEFECT	Number of Defects referred for Treatment	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment, during the year.		
		Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
SKIN—Ringworm, Scalp—				
(i) X-Ray Treatment... ..	—	—	—	—
(ii) Others ... ..	2	2	—	2
Ringworm, Body ... ..	4	4	—	4
Scabies ... ..	471	456	15	471
Impetigo ... ..	1184	1170	14	1184
Other skin disease ... ..	288	283	4	287
MINOR EYE DEFECTS—				
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II) ... ..	289	257	28	285
MINOR EAR DEFECTS ... ..	225	204	18	222
MISCELLANEOUS—				
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) ... ..	766	762	4	766
Total ... ..	3229	3138	83	3221

**Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint** (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

DEFECT OR DISEASE	Number of Defects referred for Treatment	No. OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.			
		Under the Authority's Scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise	Total
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ... ..	549	452	52	3	507
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	549	452	52	3	507

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... ..	385
(b) Otherwise ... ..	28

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme ... ..	385
(b) Otherwise ... ..	24

**Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.**

Referred for treatment	Number of Defects.													Received other forms of treat- ment.	Total number treated
	Received Operative Treatment.														
	Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital				By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme				Total						
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)			
598	—	8	245	35	17	—	7	—	17	8	252	35	147	459	

(i) Tonsils only.

(iii) Tonsils and adenoids.

(ii) Adenoids only.

(iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

**Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.**

Number of children treated.						Total number treated
Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			
Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	
16	3	441	—	—	10	457



**TABLE V.**  
**Dental Inspection and Treatment.**

(1) Number of Children who were :—		(2) Half-days devoted to :—	
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :		Inspection .....	168
Aged :		Treatment .....	1127
3— 6 4— 736 5—2017 6—1717 7—1797 8—1753 9—1730 10—1817 11—1660 12—1714 13—1506 14— 255 15— 27 16— 4		Total	1295
Routine Age Groups		(3) Attendances made by children for treatment	8419
Total 16739		(4) Fillings :—	
		Permanent teeth 3204	Total 3213
		Temporary teeth 9	
		(5) Extractions :—	
		Permanent teeth 2441	Total 11105
		Temporary teeth 8664	
Specials 143		(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	1875
Grand Total 16882		(7) Other Operations :—	
(b) Found to require treatment 9424		Permanent teeth 333	Total 336
(c) Actually treated 4827		Temporary teeth 3	

*Note :—*In addition to the above inspections, 8036 children were re-inspected during the year.

**TABLE VI.**  
**Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.**

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	56
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	53383
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	2482
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	—
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	—

**TABLE VII.**  
**Summary of Treatment of Defects.**

DISEASE OR DEFECT	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			
	Referred for Treatment	TREATED		
		Under local Education Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
Minor Ailments ... ..	3229	3138	83	3221
Visual Defects ... ..	549	452	55	507
Defects of Throat and Nose ... ..	598	397	62	459
Dental Defects { Referred by Dentist	9424	4760	240	4940
„ by School M.O.	276	127	50	177
Other Defects ... ..	1078	908	44	952
Total ... ..	15154	9722	534	10256

SECONDARY SCHOOLS—Tables VIII to XIV.

TABLE VIII.

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

A—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections—							
Age	4	—	4		Age	12	— 137
	5	—	22			13	— 92
	6	—	34			14	— 127
	7	—	18			15	— 109
	8	—	29			16	— 25
	9	—	42			17	— —
	10	—	35			18	— 1
	11	—	71			19	— —
				Total	...		746

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Number of Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	256
Total							440

C.—CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of *individual children* found at *Routine Medical Inspection* to Require Treatment  
(excluding Defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

Group.	For defective vision (excluding squint).	For all other conditions recorded in Table IX A.	Total.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
All Ages	33	17	47

TABLE IX.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children inspected during the year.

Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly Sub-normal)		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
746	211	28.28	530	71.05	5	0.67	—	—

**TABLE X.**

Return of all Exceptional Children in the area on the 31st December, 1941.

(NOTE :—The definitions for the purposes of this Table are the same as those shown in Table III of the statistics for Elementary Schools).

**BLIND CHILDREN.**

Nil.

**PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.**

Nil.

**DEAF CHILDREN.**

Nil.

**PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.**

Nil.

**MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.**

Nil.

**EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.**

Nil.

**PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.****A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.****I.—Children Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

Nil.

**II.—Children Suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

Nil.

**B. DELICATE CHILDREN.**

At Certified Special Schools	At Secondary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	3	—	—	3

**C. CRIPPLED CHILDREN.**

Nil.

**D. CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE.**

1

**CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.**

Nil.



TABLE XI.

Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table XIII).

DISEASE OR DEFECT (1)	Number of Defects referred for Treatment (2)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment, during the year.		
		Under the Authority's Scheme (3)	Otherwise (4)	Total (5)
SKIN—Ringworm, Scalp—				
(i) X-Ray Treatment ... ..	—	—	—	—
(ii) Others ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ringworm, Body ... ..	—	—	—	—
Scabies ... ..	—	—	—	—
Impetigo ... ..	6	5	1	6
Other Skin Disease ... ..	—	—	—	—
MINOR EYE DEFECTS— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II) ... ..	1	—	1	1
MINOR EAR DEFECTS ... ..	3	2	—	2
MISCELLANEOUS— (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	10	7	2	9

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

DEFECT OR DISEASE (1)	Number of Defects referred for Treatment (2)	No. OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.			
		Under the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme. (4)	Otherwise (5)	Total (6)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) .....	67	37	5	17	59
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	67	37	5	17	59

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed:

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
(b) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
(b) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Referred for treatment	Number of Defects.												Received other forms of treatment	Total number treated
	Received Operative Treatment													
	Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital				By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme				Total					
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)		
10	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	1	6

- (i) Tonsils only.
- (ii) Adenoids only.
- (iii) Tonsils and adenoids.
- (iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Number of Children Treated.						
Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			Total
Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	
—	—	15	—	—	3	18

TABLE XII.  
Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children who were :—					(2) Half-days devoted to :—					
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :					Treatment ... ..66					
Aged :					Inspection ... ..14					
					Total 80					
Routine Age Groups	{	—	—	—	13	—	194	(3) Attendances made by Children for treatment ... 533		
		4	—	5	14	—	162	(4) Fillings :—		
		5	—	39	15	—	151	Permanent Teeth 283		
		6	—	20	16	—	93	Temporary Teeth 2		
		7	—	39	17	—	31	Total 285		
		8	—	34	18	—	10	(5) Extractions :—		
		9	—	57	19	—	—	Permanent Teeth ...209		
		10	—	50	20	—	—	Temporary Teeth ... 52		
		11	—	124			Total 261			
		12	—	230	Total	1239	(6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions ... 38			
Specials ... .. 37					(7) Other Operations :—					
Grand Total ... .. 1276					Permanent Teeth ...68					
(b) Found to require treatment ... 624					Temporary teeth ...—					
(c) Actually treated ... .. 237					Total 68					

NOTE.—In addition to the above inspections, 954 children were re-inspected during the year, and of those, 345 were found to require treatment.

**TABLE XIII.**  
**Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.**

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses ... ..	18
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses ... ..	787
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean... ..	12
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority ... ..	—
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921... ..	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws ... ..	—

**TABLE XIV.**  
**Summary of Treatment of Defects.**

DISEASE OR DEFECT	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			
	Referred for Treatment	TREATED		
		Under local Education Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
Minor Ailments ... ..	10	7	2	9
Visual Defects ... ..	67	37	22	59
Defects of Throat and Nose ... ..	10	3	3	6
Dental \ Referred by Dentist ... ..	624	234	252	486
Defects / Referred by School M.O.... ..	11	3	6	9
Other Defects ... ..	9	2	6	8
Total ... ..	731	286	291	577

### APPENDIX I.

Ministry of Health Circular No. 2306.  
Board of Education Circular No. 1544.

### INFESTATION BY LICE.

**Report by the Medical Officer of Health on the present incidence in St. Helens, with suggestions for dealing with the problem.**

*(Submitted to the Central Children's Care Committee on the 15th July, 1941, and to the Health Committee on the 22nd July, 1941).*

The above joint Circular of the Ministry of Health and Board of Education draws attention to the still existing extensive prevalence of verminous conditions, especially in industrial areas, and urges on all Local Authorities the need, in the interests of public health, of reviewing the local incidence of infestation and of considering what further steps, if any, are necessary for prevention and cure.



In accordance with recommendations expressed in the Circular, consideration of the problem was undertaken jointly by the Health and School Medical Services. It was felt that any adequate necessary action could only be based on definite and recent information relating to existing conditions in the Borough. Accordingly, the first step was to organise and carry out a lousiness inspection through the medium of the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical departments, in order to survey all children up to 14 years of age. The result of this survey is shown below.

### **Lousiness Survey of Children under 5 years.**

Owing to difficulties of aggregating children of this age group for the purposes of examination, a representative survey of children of these ages was carried out in their homes. As the Borough is divided into 8 districts for health visiting purposes, it was arranged that in 3 districts Health Visitors visited and examined as many as possible of the children born in 1937, in other 3 districts the Health Visitors examined those born in 1938 and in the remaining 2 districts those born in 1939. It is considered that the children examined represent a fair selection of the child population of the town. It will be noted that only children aged 2 to 5 years were included in this survey. The result of the survey was as follows :—

Number of children examined	Number found infested			Total infested
	Nits	Lice	Nits and Lice	
1483	85	3	3	91

The percentage of infested children aged 2 to 5 years was thus 6.1, but the percentage of children on whom living lice were found was only 0.4.

### **Lousiness Survey of Children in Schools.**

This survey covered all the Elementary schools in the Borough and included all age groups from 5—14 years.

Number of children on School Register	Number Examined	Number found infested			Total
		Nits	Lice	Nits and Lice	
16,517	14,521	2120	23	147	2290

The percentage of infested school children was thus found to be 15.8, but the percentage of school children on whom living lice were found was only 1.2.

### **Prevention and Cure.**

Broadly summarised it is apparent, therefore, that the particular need for active measures lies in the large class of school children suffering from nit infestation, and that, while actual lice infestation exists, it is less than might be expected when the total infestation is considered.

It must be obvious that the work of carrying out this survey entailed a considerable effort on the part of the medical and nursing staff of the Health and School Medical departments. Thus while concomitant work, directed towards the eradication of infested conditions, both in individual families and amongst associations of children (e.g. schools) was carried out by the staffs in conjunction with the survey, it has not yet been possible to undertake complete action with regard to all the findings. The report must therefore present two aspects :—

**(1) Action which has been or is now being taken.**

(a) In the case of infested children under 5 years of age, follow-up visits to the homes were paid by the Health Visitors to ensure that the work of cleansing was carried out. In the case of school children, immediate verminous notices were served on the parent concerned, and the child “ carded ” and indexed for follow-up inspection. There is now an individual existing record of every infested child found in the survey.

(b) Clinics and schools have been the medium through which efforts have been directed by the medical and nursing staffs in order to stimulate public awareness in the problem. Poster displays, leaflet distribution, and talks have been freely used in demonstrating appropriate measures for cleansing.

(c) In the spring of 1941, extended provision for the treatment of scabies was made in the Borough by the establishment of a cleansing station at the local Isolation Hospital. This scheme also comprised provision for the cleansing of verminous cases. The services of a whole time trained nurse are available daily for this purpose, together with adequate disinfestation facilities for clothing, etc. Further expansion of this scheme will be considered in the light of events.

(d) Publicity by poster campaign has been carried out. All public air raid shelters in the borough have been placarded with the “ verminous ” poster issued by the Health and Cleanliness Council.

**(2) General lines of future action.**

(a) Further analysis of the results of the survey remains to be made. The findings will be classified according to schools and further into districts. Intensive follow-up work by means of repeated “ concentration ” inspections will be carried out in schools and districts showing a relatively high incidence of infestation. The help of members of the school teaching staffs will be asked for in carrying this out.

(b) A progressive mechanism is visualised for the follow-up of all cases. This will commence with the posting of a propaganda leaflet to all parents of infested children, giving simple instructions for cleansing. The children will then be re-examined and if necessary personal visits by Health Visitors to the homes will be made. In suitable and necessary cases the facilities of the cleansing station at the Isolation Hospital will be offered. Persistent and serious cases



among school children will be dealt with under the compulsory cleansing powers of the Education Act, 1921.

(c) Where necessary the sanitary background will be dealt with as required.

### **Conclusion.**

For the purpose of carrying out the intensive work indicated above it may be necessary, temporarily at least, to augment the staff. Until the full analysis of the survey is completed, however, it is impossible to advise as to the extent to which that may be necessary. The joint Circular suggests that where such increase is necessary less highly trained personnel than Health Visitors might be suitable for the purpose.

---

## **APPENDIX 2.**

---

### **Report on a Nutritional Survey of school children conducted during 1941.**

---

*(Submitted to the Central Children's Care Committee on 14-7-42).*

---

Previous to 1941 the assessment of the nutritional standard of school children in St. Helens was limited, by reason of available staff, to a survey of the routine age groups examined during each year. Early in 1941, however, the appointment of an additional Medical Officer was suggested by the Board of Education in order that, amongst other work, nutritional inspection might be expanded to include all school children in the Borough. This appointment was made by the Local Authority in April, 1941, and with this consequent staff reinforcement, it was possible from the month of May onwards until the end of the year to review the nutritional standard of all children in elementary schools in the Town.

The nutritional surveys were conducted in the schools as an integral part of the medical inspections by the visiting medical officers. Every child present in the school was examined and its nutritional condition classified according to the grades recommended by the Board of Education, i.e., A—Excellent ; B—Normal ; C—Slightly Sub-normal ; D—Bad. Immediately following the inspection, a complete list of all children classified as C or D was forwarded to the Head Teacher of the School concerned so as to ensure that the benefits of the Schools Milk and Meals Scheme would be available to them, either on a free basis or on a payment according to income scale. This income scale was revised in February, 1941, in order to modify its more stringent operations.



In the survey the Nutritional standard of 15,462 children was assessed. Out of this number 721 children were placed in category C, and 8 children in category D, a total of 729 children whose nutritional standard was considered below normal. This gave a percentage figure of 4.7% of malnutrition amongst St. Helens school children. The last comparable figure available on a national basis was the figure of 10.8% of subnormal nutrition returned in 1938 for the routine age groups of children examined in England and Wales. The figure of 4.7% for all school children in St. Helens, therefore, can be taken as comparatively satisfactory and denotes no tendency towards a lowering of the nutritional standard due to war conditions.

The attached schedule gives the detailed figures for Malnutrition in each school and further gives the incidence in age groups. (For the purposes of tabulation, since the numbers in category D were so small, groups C and D are combined under the general total "Malnourished.")

It will be noted that an analysis into age groups reveals that the greatest incidence of subnormal nutrition occurred in the 7, 8, 9, 11 and 10 year old classes in that order of greater to lesser incidence. This was not entirely unexpected as a tendency towards a higher incidence of malnutrition in the middle age group (i.e. 8 year olds) had been noted in previous years.

It may also be noted that in most instances where a school feeding centre was in operation on the school premises, these schools returned low figures for subnormal nutrition in comparison with the other schools of the town. In only two schools of this type were the figures above the average for the town to a slight degree, and both these schools cater for districts which were recognised to be the hardest hit from an economic standard in pre-war days.

It would be impossible to deduce any very definite conclusions from the above findings. It is not claimed that the survey itself was founded on any basis of strict scientific accuracy and it would be unwise to dogmatise about figures which rest as they do on empirical assessments by individual medical officers. Yet two broad indications seem to emerge :—

(1) The problem of malnutrition in the Borough amongst school children should not be approached entirely from the view point of individual schools or districts of the town, but should also be considered in its relation to the age classes of children most involved. The middle age group, i.e. 7—11 years, would seem to offer the greatest field for careful supervision.

(2) It would seem that feeding on individual school premises in an expanded scheme of the future might bring more general benefit to the children.

## DETAILED STATISTICS OF NUTRITIONAL SURVEY, 1941.

SCHOOL	No. on Roll	No. Examined	Total Malnourished	Percentage	Malnourished Cases—Year of Birth										
					1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
Marshall's Cross .....	52	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Merton Bank .....	396	360	2	0.5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parr Mount .....	361	318	5	1.6	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—
Windleshaw .....	401	349	5	1.7	—	—	1	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
St. Vincent's .....	405	354	7	1.9	1	1	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
St. Luke's.....	260	249	5	2.0	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
Holy Cross .....	860	781	18	2.3	—	—	2	2	6	2	2	1	1	2	—
Rivington Road .....	819	753	20	2.6	3	3	2	2	—	—	—	3	3	3	1
Higher Grade Boys' .....	361	345	9	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	2
*Allanson Street .....	549	485	13	2.7	—	1	2	3	1	3	3	—	—	—	—
Blackbrook .....	435	370	11	2.9	—	—	2	1	5	1	1	—	—	1	—
St. Anne's.....	547	454	13	2.9	2	4	1	1	1	—	3	1	—	—	—
*Higher Grade Girls' .....	390	364	11	3.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	2	1	—
*Grange Park .....	561	526	16	3.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	4	4	1
Knowsley Road .....	574	546	17	3.1	—	2	1	5	1	5	3	—	—	—	—
Sutton Manor C. ....	358	286	10	3.5	—	1	—	1	2	4	1	1	—	—	—
St. Austin's .....	649	557	20	3.58	—	1	2	4	4	2	1	2	3	1	—
Peasley Cross C.E. ....	61	55	2	3.6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Windlehurst J.C. ....	423	388	14	3.6	—	1	3	4	3	1	2	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas' C.E. ....	331	309	13	4.2	—	—	3	4	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
St. Teresa's .....	576	529	23	4.3	1	1	2	3	2	2	5	2	5	—	—
*Parr Flat .....	327	301	13	4.3	—	1	3	3	1	4	4	1	—	—	—
Parish Church .....	470	427	20	4.7	—	2	5	2	—	4	4	2	1	—	—
Sutton C.E. ....	382	323	16	4.9	3	—	5	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
Sacred Heart .....	735	686	35	5.1	—	6	6	7	4	6	2	2	1	1	—
Sutton St. Joseph's .....	536	486	28	5.8	—	2	6	3	3	3	2	6	1	2	—
*Parr Central .....	650	613	36	5.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	9	16	2
*Windle Pilkington C. ....	278	251	15	6.0	1	1	4	1	4	1	2	1	—	—	—
Thatto Heath C. ....	415	386	24	6.2	—	—	—	2	1	1	13	7	—	—	—
Laffak .....	69	63	4	6.3	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Windle C.E. ....	235	231	15	6.5	1	1	3	1	5	2	2	—	—	—	—
Sutton Manor R.C. ....	281	248	8	7.3	—	2	3	3	6	1	—	1	2	—	—
Nutgrove .....	281	242	17	7.4	—	3	4	2	4	1	3	—	—	—	—
Parr St. Joseph's .....	139	120	9	7.5	—	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lowe House .....	807	716	59	8.2	—	2	5	7	3	12	9	4	8	6	3
St. Matthew's .....	310	261	23	8.8	—	3	4	4	4	2	6	—	—	—	—
St. Patrick's .....	174	136	12	8.8	1	1	3	3	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ravenhead .....	122	101	9	8.9	1	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robins Lane .....	1024	912	86	9.4	1	2	10	7	13	16	8	11	8	8	1
St. Mary's .....	311	280	27	9.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	10	8	2
York Street .....	141	127	14	11.02	2	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gerard .....	133	124	15	12.1	3	4	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .....	17689	15462	729	4.71	20	59	102	93	85	82	84	72	62	57	12

\* Schools with feeding centres on the premises.